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5-15-2003

### Events; 2003-05-15; WNY; Annual AME Conference (1)

Bethel A.M.E. Church

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# First Episcopal District

African Methodist Episcopal Church

The 7th Session  
of the

*Western New York  
Annual Conference*



May 15-18, 2003

**Baber AME Church**

550 Meigs Street  
Rochester, New York 14610

*District Theme*

**“Saving, Sacrificing and Serving for Christ”**

**II Corinthians 8:5**

The Reverend Norvel Goff, Sr., Host Pastor  
The Reverend Ernestine M. Ward, Host Presiding Elder  
Mother Carrie R. Grady, Episcopal Supervisor  
Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady, Presiding Bishop

*Bermuda  
New Jersey  
Delaware*

*Western New York*

*New England  
New York  
Philadelphia*

## Our Episcopal Team



Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady  
Presiding Bishop

Mother Carrie R. Grady  
Episcopal Supervisor

## PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

**Tuesday, May 13, 2003**

Evangelists - All Day

**Wednesday, May 14, 2003**

**Western New York Annual Conference  
Women's Missionary Society's Annual Day**

7:30 A.M.  
Annual Meeting

11:00 A.M.  
Worship Service  
Missionary Sermon - The Rev. John C. Justice

1:00 P.M.  
Recess

2:00 - 5:30 P.M.  
Business Meeting

7:30 P.M.  
Missionary Involvement Night

**Thursday, May 15, 2003**

## WESTERN NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8:00 A.M.  
Devotions: Conference Evangelists

8:30 A.M.  
Roll Call and Organization  
Committee Appointments

10:00 A.M.  
**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
Annual Sermon - The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart

# Order of Service

## THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003

*The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward, Worship Leader*

ORGAN PRELUDE ...

INTROIT ...

- \* PROCESSIONAL ..... AME Hymn No. 519  
*"The Church's One Foundation"*

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the word.  
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, One Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed:  
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation, And tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious, Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee.

- \* DOXOLOGY ..... AME Hymn No. 64  
*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

- \* CALL TO WORSHIP ..... The Rev. Norvel Goff, S.

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go  
into the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand  
within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.  
I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I  
will seek thy good.

**Those that be planted in the house of the Lord,  
shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord,  
I have loved thy habitation, the place where  
thy honor dwelleth.

**For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him.**

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation  
of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord,  
my strength and my redeemer.

**O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things.  
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**



\* HYMN OF PRAISE ..... The Rev. William C. Cobbs  
*"And Are We Yet Alive"*  
 AME Hymn No. 304

And are we yet alive, And see each other's face?  
 Glory and praise to Jesus give For His redeeming grace.

Preserved by power divine To full salvation here,  
 Again in Jesus' praise we join, And in His sight appear.

What troubles have we seen, What conflicts have we passed,  
 Fightings without, and fears within, Since we assembled last.

But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love;  
 And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power,  
 Which saves us to the uttermost, Till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain;  
 And gladly reckon all things loss, So we may Jesus gain.

INVOCATION ..... The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds

CHORAL RESPONSE ..... AME Hymn No. 460  
*"More Love to Thee, O Christ"*

More love to Thee, O Christ, More love to Thee!  
 Hear Thou the prayer I make On bended knee;  
 This is my earnest plea: More Love, O Christ to Thee,  
 More love to Thee, More love to Thee!

\*\* WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC ..... The Baber AME  
 Church Choir

SCRIPTURE ...

Old Testament ..... The Rev. Craig J. Wright  
 The Epistle ..... The Rev. Horace Cromer  
 The Gospel ..... The Rev. Peter Castro

\* PREFACE TO  
 THE DECALOGUE ..... AME Hymn No. 6  
*"From All That Dwell Below the Skies"*

From all that dwell below the skies,  
 Let the Creator's praise arise;  
 Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
 Through every land by every tongue.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
 Eternal truth attends Thy word:  
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
 Till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

\* THE DECALOGUE ..... The Rev. Richard Stenhouse

\* GLORIA PATRI ..... "Glory Be To The Father"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
 and to the Holy Ghost.  
 As it was in the beginning, is now,  
 and ever shall be,  
 world without end. Amen.

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC ..... The Baber AME  
 Church Choir

GIFTS FOR MISSIONS ..... The Rev. John C. Justice

WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC ..... The Baber AME  
 Church Choir

\* THE LITANY ..... The Rev. Natalie P. Alford

Oh God, Our Heavenly Father, by whose goodness,  
 mercy and grace we have been brought into  
 yet another session of this great Annual Conference,

*We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.*

For the African Methodist Episcopal Church, its leadership and its people, whom you have blessed so abundantly over the years,

*We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.*

For the year of service and work that has passed, for an opportunity to give an account of our stewardship, and for the year that lies ahead of us,

*We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.*

For all who have a place in our lives and in our hearts, who are connected to us by the sacred ties of kindred friendship and love,

*We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.*

For the mission that is ours, and for the many new challenges and opportunities that are before us in these challenging and changing times,

*We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.*

For the gift of Thy Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whom Thou did send as a living example for us, who died on Calvary's cross for our sake and who rose again,

*We offer praise and thanksgiving unto Thee.  
Amen.*

\*\* WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC ..... The Baber AME Church Choir

PRESENTATION OF  
THE BISHOP ..... The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward

PRESENTATION OF  
THE PREACHER ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady

\*\* SERMONIC HYMN ..... The Rev. Ella M. Brande  
*"O Thou in Whose Presence"*  
AME Hymn No. 83

O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,  
On whom in affliction I call,  
My comfort by day and my song in the night,  
My hope, my salvation, my all!

Where dost thou, dear Shepherd, resort with Thy sheep,  
To feed them in pastures of love?  
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,  
Or alone in this wilderness rove?

O why should I wander, an alien from Thee,  
Or cry in the desert for bread?  
Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see,  
And smile at the tears I have shed.

Dear Shepherd, I hear, and will follow Thy call;  
I know the sweet sound of Thy voice.  
Restore and defend me, for Thou art my all,  
And in Thee I will ever rejoice. Amen.

\*\* THE SERMON ..... The Rev. Jocelyn K. Ha

\*\* INVITATION TO  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... The Rev. Jocelyn K. Ha  
*"Just As I Am"*  
AME Hymn No. 257

\*\* THE OFFERING ...

\* THE OFFERTORY PRAYER ...

\*\* INTRODUCTION OF  
VISITORS ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. Grad

\*\* THE ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. Grad

COMMUNION HYMN ..... AME Hymn No. 225  
*"There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood"*

SERVICE OF COMMUNION ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. Grady  
Chief Celebrant

Assisted By  
Visiting Presiding Elders

HYMN OF FELLOWSHIP ..... AME Hymn No. 525  
*"What A Fellowship"*

\* DOXOLOGY ...

\* BENEDICTION ..... The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart

\* Stand  
\*\* Let The People Enter

**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2003**  
**The Afternoon and Evening Schedule**

1:00 P.M. .... Recess

2:45 P.M. .... Devotions:  
Department of Evangelism

3:00 P.M. .... Business Session

5:30 P.M. .... Recess

7:30 P.M. .... Lay Organization  
and Commitment Service

**FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2003**  
**Morning Schdeule**

8:00 A.M. .... Devotions:  
The Department of Evangelism

8:15 A.M. .... Conference Institute  
The Rev. Earl R. Jefferson  
Presenter

9:30 A.M. .... Business Session

12 Noon ..... Hour of Power



## Order of Service

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2003 - 12 NOON

*The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart, Worship Leader*

- \* DOXOLOGY .....AME 647  
    *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*

- \* CALL TO WORSHIP .....The Rev. Anne Hargrave Pinn

From the rising of the sun unto the going  
down of the same, the Lord's name be  
praised.

**The hour cometh and now is, when the  
true worshippers Shall worship the  
Lord in spirit and in truth.**

We have come into the presence of the  
Lord with Singing, thanksgiving and  
praise.

**Let us all worship and praise the Lord  
together.**

- \*\* HYMN OF PRAISE ..... The Rev. Percy Jones  
    *"Dwelling in Beulah Land" - AME Hymn No. 354*

Far away the noise of strife upon my ear is falling,  
Then I know the sins of earth beset on every hand;  
Doubt and fear and things of earth in vain to me are calling,  
None of these shall move me from Beulah Land.

*Refrain:*

*I'm living on the mountain, underneath a cloudless sky;  
I'm drinking at the fountain that never shall run dry;  
O yes! I'm feasting on the manna from a bountiful supply,  
For I am dwelling in Beulah Land.*

Far below the storm of doubt upon the world is beating,  
Sons of men in battle long the enemy withstand;  
Safe am I within the castle of God's word retreating,  
Nothing there can reach me, 'tis Beulah Land.

Viewing here the works of God, I sink in contemplation;  
Hearing now His blessed voice, I see the way He planned;  
Dwelling in the Spirit, here I learn of full salvation,  
Gladly will I tarry in Beulah Land.

- INVOCATION ..... The Rev. Betsy Crum

CHORAL RESPONSE ...

- \*\* WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC ..... The Ch

SCRIPTURE LESSON ..... The Rev. George L. Lark

- \* GLORIA PATRI ...

- \*\* WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC ..... The Ch

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP ...

PRESENTATION OF  
THE PREACHER ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. Gra

- \*\* SERMONIC HYMN .....AME Hymn No. 2  
    *"More About Jesus"*

More about Jesus would I know,  
More of His grace to others show;  
More of His saving fulness see,  
More of His love who died for me.

*(Refrain)*

*More, more about Jesus,  
More, more about Jesus;  
More of His saving fulness see,  
More of His love who died for me.*



More about Jesus let me learn,  
 More of His holy will discern;  
 Spirit of God, my teacher be,  
 Showing the things of Christ to me.

More about Jesus on His throne,  
 Riches in glory all His own;  
 More of His kingdom's sure increase;  
 More of His coming, Prince of Peace.

SERMON ...

\* INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ....

\*\* THE OFFERING ...

\* THE OFFERTORY PRAYER ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. Grad

\* DOXOLOGY .....BENEDICTION

### FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2003 The Afternoon Schedule

1:00 P.M. .... Recess

2:45 P.M. .... Devotions:  
 The Department of Evangelism

3:00 P.M. .... Business Session

5:30 P.M. .... Recess

7:30 P.M. .... YOUTH NIGHT  
 Under the Sponsorship of  
 the Department of Christian  
 Education

### SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2003

8:30 A.M. .... YPD ANNUAL MEETING  
*Venue to be Announced*

Devotions:  
 The Department of Evangelism

9:00 A.M. .... Business Session

9:30 A.M. .... Memorial Service

10:00 A.M. .... Ordination Service

### SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2003 8:00 A.M. The Church at Study

Church-School will be held at all member churches. The Conference Church-School Superintendent, however, will conduct a model Church School at the seat of the Annual Conference. All superintendents are expected to be present for this "once a year" experience.

Church-School..... Brother Joseph Thomas, Sr.  
 Background Scripture: Mark 9:14-37  
 Printed Text: Mark 9:14-29  
 Golden Text: Mark 9:24

GOLDEN TEXT:  
 "Straightway the father of the child cried out, and said  
 with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."  
 Mark 9:24

10:00 A.M.  
 Closing and Commissioning Service

More about Jesus let me learn,  
 More of His holy will discern;  
 Spirit of God, my teacher be,  
 Showing the things of Christ to me.

More about Jesus on His throne,  
 Riches in glory all His own;  
 More of His kingdom's sure increase;  
 More of His coming, Prince of Peace.

SERMON ...

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2:45 P.M. .... Devotions:  
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3:00 P.M. .... Business Session

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 with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."  
 Mark 9:24

**10:00 A.M.**  
**Closing and Commissioning Service**

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### *The Closing and Commissioning*

The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward  
Worship Leader

ORGAN PRELUDE ...

- \* PROCESSIONAL ..... AME Hymn No. 520  
*"We're Marching To Zion"*

Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known,  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
And thus surround the throne,  
And thus surround the throne.

*Refrain:*

*We're marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.*

Let those refuse to sing  
Who never knew our God;  
But children of the heavenly King,  
But children of the heavenly King,  
May speak their joys abroad,  
May speak their joys abroad.

The hill of Zion yields  
A thousand sacred sweets  
Before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Before we reach the heavenly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets,  
Or walk the golden streets.

Then let our songs abound,  
And every tear be dry;  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
We're marching through Immanuel's ground,  
To fairer worlds on high,  
To fairer worlds on high.

- \* DOXOLOGY ..... AME Hymn No. 647  
*"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*
- \* CALL TO WORSHIP ..... The Rev. Norvel Goff, Sr.

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into  
the house of the Lord, our feet shall stand within  
thy gates, O Jerusalem.

**For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.  
I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my  
God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will  
seek thy good.

**Those that be planted in the house of the Lord,  
shall flourish in the courts of our God.**

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I  
have loved thy habitation, the place where thy honor  
dwelleth.

**For the Lord is in His holy temple, let all the  
earth keep silence before Him.**

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of  
my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my  
strength and my redeemer.

**O sing unto the Lord a new song, for He has  
done marvelous things. Make a joyful noise  
unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.**



\*\* HYMN OF PRAISE ..... The Rev. Natalie P. Alford  
*"O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing"*  
**AME Hymn No. 1**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
 My great Redeemer's praise,  
 The glories of my God and King,  
 The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
 Assist me to proclaim,  
 To spread thro' all the earth abroad  
 The honors of Thy name.

He speaks and listening to His voice,  
 New life the dead receive;  
 The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
 The humble poor, believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,  
 Your loosened tongues employ;  
 Ye blind, behold your Savior come;  
 And leap, ye lame, for joy.

INVOCATION ..... The Rev. John C. Justice

CHORAL RESPONSE ..... AME Hymn No. 18  
*"Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"*

\*\* WORSHIP THROUGH  
 MUSIC ..... The Annual Conference Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSONS ...  
 The Old Testament ..... The Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse  
 The Epistle ..... The Rev. William C. Cobbs, Jr.  
 The Gospel ..... The Rev. Ella M. Brandon

\* PREFACE TO  
 THE DECALOGUE ..... AME Hymn No. 6  
*"From All that Dwell Below the Skies"*

From all that dwell below the skies,  
 Let the Creator's praise arise;  
 Let the Redeemer's name be sung  
 Through ev'ry land by every tongue.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
 Eternal truth attends Thy word:  
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
 Till suns shall rise and set no more. Amen.

\* DECALOGUE (Summary) ..... The Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart

Hear what Christ our Saviour saith, Thou shalt love the  
 Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul,  
 and with all thy mind. This is the first and great com-  
 mandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt  
 love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two command-  
 ments hang all the law and the prophets.

\* GLORIA PATRI ..... "Glory Be To The Father"

\*\* WORSHIP THROUGH  
 MUSIC ..... The Annual Conference Choir

GIFTS FOR MISSIONS ..... The Rev. Robert L. Reynolds

\*\* WORSHIP THROUGH  
 MUSIC ..... The Annual Conference Choir

PRESENTATION OF  
 THE BISHOP ..... The Rev. Ernestine M. Ward

\*\* SERMONIC HYMN ..... The Rev. Percy Jones  
*"Amazing Grace"*  
**AME Hymn No. 226**

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
 That saved a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found,  
 Was blind, but now I see.



\*\* HYMN OF PRAISE ..... The Rev. Natalie P. Alfor  
*"O For a Thousand Tongues To Sing"*  
 AME Hymn No. 1

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 My great Redeemer's praise,  
 The glories of my God and King,  
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My gracious Master and my God,  
 Assist me to proclaim,  
 To spread thro' all the earth abroad  
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He speaks and listening to His voice,  
 New life the dead receive;  
 The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
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Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,  
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Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
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\*\* SERMONIC HYMN ..... The Rev. Percy Jones  
*"Amazing Grace"*  
 AME Hymn No. 226

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
 That saved a wretch like me!  
 I once was lost, but now am found,  
 Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

SERMON ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G r a  
Presiding Prel  
First Episcopal Distr  
African Methodist Episcopal Chu

\*\* INVITATION TO  
CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G r a

THE OFFERING ...

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER ...

INTRODUCTION OF  
VISITORS ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G r a

\*\* SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS  
AND OTHER BUSINESS ...

\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G r a

THE COMMISSIONING ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G r a

THE CHARGE ..... AME Hymn No. 2  
*"A Charge To Keep I Have"*

A charge to keep I have,  
A God to Glorify,  
A never dying soul to save  
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,  
My calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage  
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care,  
As in Thy sight to live,  
And O, Thy servant, Lord, prepare,  
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,  
And on Thyself rely  
Assured, if I my trust betray,  
I shall forever die. Amen.

THE GIVING OF  
CERTIFICATES TO CONFERENCE OFFICERS ...

THE HYMN OF COMMISSION..... AME Hymn No. 220  
*"Go Preach My Gospel"*

"Go, preach My gospel," saith the Lord,  
"Bid the whole earth My grace receive.  
Explain to them My sacred word;  
Bid them believe, obey, and live."

"I'll make My great commission known,  
And ye shall prove My gospel true  
By all the works that I have done  
And all the wonders ye shall do."

"Go, heal the sick; go, raise the dead;  
Go, cast out devils in My name;  
Nor let My prophets be afraid,  
Though Greeks reproach and Jews blaspheme."

"While thus ye follow My commands  
I'm with you till the world shall end;  
All power is trusted in My hands;  
I can destroy and can defend."

He spake, and light shone round His head,  
On a bright cloud to heaven He rode.  
They to the farthest nation spread  
The grace of their ascended God.

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE ...

\*\* THE READING OF  
APPOINTMENTS ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G

\* THE CLOSING HYMN ..... AME Hymn No  
*"God Be With You Till We Meet Again"*

God be with you till we meet again;  
By His counsels guide, uphold you,  
With His sheep securely fold you;  
God be with you till we meet again.

\* DOXOLOGY ...

\* BENEDICTION ..... Bishop Zedekiah L. G

\* Stand

\*\* Let the People Enter